

22. (Amended) Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets of said relays are also electrically coupled with one another across the coupling element.

23. (Amended) Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element is releasably coupled.

24. (Amended) Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element is non-releasably coupled.

C1
(cont)
25. (Amended) Relay according to claim 24, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the [respective coupled] relays.

26. (Amended) Relay according to claim 25, characterized in that between the lateral projections of the partition wall grooves are formed, which grooves are adapted for the reception of said contact springs.

27. (Amended) Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the receiving openings of the respective spring brackets of the relays define lengthwise axes and the spring brackets further define outwardly opening slots disposed parallel to the lengthwise axes, the passive contact springs being disposed within the slots.

C2
29. (Amended) Relay according to claim 28, characterized in that the at least one double contact spring is adapted to be connected with the coupling element prior to the coupling element being plugged together with the respective spring brackets of the relays.

31. (Amended) Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element is releasably coupled.

32. (Amended) Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element is non-releasably coupled.

C3
33. (Amended) Relay according to claim 21, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

C3
(cont)

34. (Amended) Relay according to claim 22, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the [respective coupled] relays.

35. (Amended) Relay according to claim 23, characterized in that the coupling element comprises an insulating material and has at least one partition wall insulatingly separating the respective contact springs of the relays when the relays are coupled, said partition wall having lateral projections molded thereon which are engagable within corresponding receiving openings on the respective spring brackets of the relays.

C4

39. (New Claim) Relay assembly with coupling element, comprising: at least two relays, each relay having at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the at least two relays are mechanically couplable, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein the coupling element is releasably coupled.

40. (New Claim) Relay assembly with coupling element, comprising: at least two relays, each relay having at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the at least two relays are mechanically couplable, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to

the coupling element and wherein the active and/or passive contact springs of the spring brackets of the at least two relays are also electrically coupled with one another across the coupling element.

41. (New Claim) The relay assembly with coupling element of claim 40 wherein the coupling element electrically couples the passive and/or active contact springs of the at least two coupled relays to define a serial circuit.

42. (New Claim) Relay with coupling element, comprising: at least one spring bracket, a drive disposed on the spring bracket and which acts over an actuator on at least one active contact spring which cooperates with at least one passive contact spring anchored in the spring bracket, at least one of the active and passive contact springs being electrically contactable through a connection contact; characterized in that the relay is mechanically couplable with at least one further relay of the same type to provide at least two relays wherein each of the relays have a similar configuration, a coupling element constructed as a separate component engagable with coupling devices disposed on the spring brackets of the respective relays, electric connection contacts of the contact springs of the respective relays being disposed proximate the respective coupling devices, and further characterized in that the at least two coupled relays lie in mirror-image symmetry relative to the coupling element and wherein said coupling element includes at least one groove and at least one multiple contact spring slidably mounted in the groove and electrically coupling the passive and/or active contact springs of the spring brackets of said relays with one another across the coupling element.

43. (New Claim) The relay with coupling element of claim 42 wherein the coupling element electrically couples the passive and/or active contact springs of the at least two coupled relays to define a serial circuit.

REMARKS

Claims 21-43 are pending in the current application. Claims 21-27, 29 and 31-35 have been amended hereby and new claims 39-43 have been added hereby .

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 21-27, 29 and 31-35 have been amended hereby and it is respectfully submitted that, as amended, claims 21-38 point out with particularity and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.